

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings as follows:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 4, 6 and 7. These sheets replace the original sheets including Fig. 4, 6 and 7.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets
Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

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PATENT**REMARKS**Introduction:

Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application.

In the above amendments, claims 15, 18, and 21-22 have been amended and claim 25 has been canceled without prejudice.

In the Office Action mailed 3/31/2005, the Examiner objected to the drawings, objected to the specification, objected to claims 1-17, rejected claim 25 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph (enablement requirement), rejected claims 1-14 and 17-25 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art shown in Fig. 5 (the "admitted prior art"), and rejected claims 15-16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art and further in view of Xu - US 20010052104 (Xu).

Drawings:

Applicant submits that the above amendments to the drawings do not make any substantive changes or introduce any new material but are simply the correction of typographical errors, which are consistent with the specification as originally submitted and which are consistent with the Examiner's objections. In particular, figs. 4, 6, and 7 have been amended in light of the Examiner's objections. Therefore, approval and entry of the above amendments are respectfully requested.

The Examiner further objected to the drawings in that Figures 1-4 should be labeled as "Prior Art." However, various aspects of the present invention may be practiced in conjunction with what's shown in the figures and therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw these drawing objections.

Specification:

Applicant provides herewith amendments to the specification. The amendments to the specification are made by presenting marked up replacement paragraphs which identify changes made relative to the immediate prior version.

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The changes made are in conformance with the Examiner's objections to the extent that the changes are consistent with the original disclosure.

Applicant believes these changes add no new matter to the application and are fully supported by the original disclosure.

Claim Objections:

The noted informalities in claims 15, 18, 21, and 22 have been corrected as suggested by the Examiner. The objections to claim 25 are deemed moot in view of its cancellation. With respect to claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the recitation "C and D" is not indefinite but rather has been broadly recited. It is respectfully submitted that "breadth of a claim is not to be equated with indefiniteness" (see MPEP 2173.04).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 112:

The rejection of claim 25 is deemed moot in view of its cancellation.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 102:

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 and 17-25 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art shown in Fig. 5 (the "admitted prior art"). The rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

With reference to independent claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that the admitted prior art shown in Fig. 5 does not teach nor suggest the claimed features of "updating **channel nodes Rx, Ry and Rz,**" and "initializing outgoing messages from **symbol nodes Xi, Yi and Zk,**" (emphasis added).

The Examiner appears to equate the claimed "channel nodes Rx, Ry and Rz" with the inputs to decoder 501 and the input 540 to decoder 502 as shown in Fig. 5 and also equates the claimed "symbol nodes Xi, Yi and Zk" with outputs 550, 542, and 540, respectively. However, such inputs to decoders 501 and 502 are not channel nodes because a node holds information, but inputs to such decoders are closer in nature to "messages" and not channel nodes. Nor are the outputs 550, 542, and 540 symbol nodes because such outputs again are messages.

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Similarly, with reference to independent claims 18 and 22, the admitted prior art does not teach nor suggest the claimed features of "channel nodes Rx, Ry and Rz," and "symbol nodes Xi, Yi and Zk," for the reasons given above.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC 103:

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 15-16 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art and further in view of Xu – US 20010052104 (Xu). However, it is respectfully submitted that claims 15-16 are allowable for at least the reasons given above regarding claim 1, from which they depend.

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REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 27, 2005

By:

W. Chris Kim
W. Chris Kim, Reg. No. 40,457
(858) 651-6295

QUALCOMM Incorporated
5775 Morehouse Drive
San Diego, California 92121
Telephone: (858) 658-5787
Facsimile: (858) 658-2502

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Customer No.: 23696